

FEED

B A C K

Serials Australian Special Interest Group

The Australian Serials Special Interest Group (ASSIG) and the National Acquisitions Section is organising the First National Serials Seminar for Sunday, 6 August, at the South Australian Institute of Technology, Adelaide, South Australia.

The guest speaker will be Marcia Tuttle from North Carolina, USA, who is a leading authority on serials issues. Don't miss the opportunity to hear and learn about world trends and problems. Supporting speakers include Toby Burrows (University of Western Australia), Ngaire Diggins (Unilever Australia), Edith Heinrich (Department of Defence), Rosemary McLauchlan (Commonwealth Bank) and Eve Woodbury (Bond University).

Topics to be discussed include serials in the computer age, approaches to serials automation, and the future for serials collection in Australian libraries.

As the seminar is being conducted prior to the Special and Law Librarians' Conference, seminar attendees will be able to look at the trade exhibition on Monday 7 August. The cost to attend the seminar is only \$40 for ALIA members and \$60 for others.

For more information contact M. Kennan on (02) 622 0393. Send details with payments to Marianne Ibrahim, Library Cataloguing Department, University of New South Wales, PO Box 1, Kensington, NSW 2033.

Library and Information Services for People with Disabilities

Special Interest Group

On 18 April the LISPD Special Interest Group, NSW, held a joint meeting with the Australian Association of Adult Education (AAAE) Disability Network and the Institute of Technical and Adult Teacher Education (ITATE) of the Sydney College of Advanced Education.

The meeting was held in the State

Library of NSW. Fourteen people attended, including librarians, AAAE Disability Network practitioners and rehabilitation students.

One of the principal objectives of the LISPD Special Interest Group is to facilitate the sharing of information on disability, increasing the awareness of all professionals in the field of the often quite disparate services available.

Two speakers addressed the meeting. Margaret Marrum, a member of the AAAE Disability Network, spoke of the aims and achievements of the Network. Margaret also discussed the Skillshare project of Active Job Services, a community-based employment agency. Funded by the Federal Department of Education, Employment and Training, Skillshare aims to develop workforce skills in people of all ages who have been out of the labour market for a long time.

Ross Dickenson, from the library of ITATE, led discussion on the difficulties encountered in raising the level of awareness among students of ITATE. The wide-ranging discussion returned often to the seemingly perennial problem of the difficulties encountered in identifying and disseminating information in the field of disability.

Other information presented at the meeting included news of the Computer Assessment Service, now offered by the Society for Crippled Children, and a brief review of the Disabilities Database presently being developed by the Special Needs Service of the State Library of NSW.

Jennie Berryman

Online Users Special Interest Group

Celebration of a connection

This year the Online Users Group held its 10th Midas Luncheon at the Solander Gallery in Deakin, ACT, with Brian Callaghan, OTC, and about forty users.

The advent of Midas 10 years ago brought the vast information resources of Dialog, Orbit and their ilk to libraries in a way that was, from the first, cost effective for even the smallest library. Librarians found that they could grasp the nettle of new technology without forsaking the old values, and continue at the forefront. The cultural cringe evaporated as they realised that their telecommunications and use of technology were up with the best.

It has been a hard 10 years for libraries with small government equalling good politics — all libraries are basically dependent on government or large

private bureaucracies for their funding. That we have survived at all is testimony to our ability to become involved in the power plays and developments such as online searching with all their image-improving potential.

No small thanks are owed to OTC (especially Brian Callaghan and George Maltby) for their support and responsive and reliable services over the years. During his luncheon address, Brian gave an outline of the growth of Midas and showed how it had been dominated by library use in the initial years. These days, library use represents only a small percentage of use, but volume has grown and continues to grow.

Peter Judge reminded us that Midas was introduced because librarians communicated their requirements to OTC in no uncertain terms. The viability of the Midas service was questioned seriously in its second year when a major user pulled out to move to a private line. It was mainly because of the enthusiastic and dedicated librarian support that Midas survived to grow to today's Dataccess service.

OTC had a worthy offering for the 10th anniversary. Intelnet is based on the US Easynet service and provides menu-driven access to more than 800 databases to hosts in all parts of the world. Billing is centralised, and payment made in Australia. This ensures access to a multiplicity of hosts that could hardly be justified in the absence of this hassle-free service.

Upfront costs for Intelnet seem to be the \$50 joining fee and \$100 per year, plus learning one more language. If a library can't justify that for the marginal material, perhaps it can combine with others to test it out.

Jean Geue
Convener

Queensland Branch

Branch Council met on 9 May at BCAE, Kelvin Grove. The meeting was well attended and there was open discussion on a variety of topics.

The Branch has many issues of real importance to deal with. Some thought that the year of the reader (1990) was beginning to look like the Year of the Writer. Members wondered if all the planned activities would focus on a select band of people interested in writing and publishing. Those with influence — on the planning committee — have taken up the cause.

Fee for service was raised again. The ALIA Victorian resolution on free public libraries and value-added fee-based services was circulated. The Council

discussed the logic behind the statement, asking if it was a statement on 'free public libraries' or 'fee for service', and recommended that the two issues be split so that what was free was clearly noted in one policy, and what was charged for was clearly written in another. The Branch resolved to call a public meeting in June to discuss the free public library service policies now being promoted by ALIA.

Sections reported on various activities. The next couple of months will be fairly busy, with everyone's timetable fully organised. The Continuing Education Program will include:

- Workshop on Conservation — 30 June
- Eric Wainwright, Deputy National Librarian, RLG Conspectus — 26 July.

For your information, a new edition of *A student's guide to academic libraries in Queensland* is available. Contact: Anne Whyte, Griffith University Library, Kessels Road, Nathan, Qld 4111; telephone (07) 275 7135.

Carol Keliher
Branch Councillor

Education for Librarianship Section National Group

Wanted — your views on Ed Lib

The Education for Librarianship Section requests your views on the possible extension of the role of the Section and a possible change of name for the Section.

Role of Section

At present the role of the Section is to:

- bring together educators and practitioners;
- foster cooperation between educators;
- contribute on professional issues;
- produce a journal to reflect educational issues;
- undertake activities to complement those of other sections of ALIA;
- provide advice on education for library and information services;
- conduct professional development.

These objectives are achieved by:

- a national committee comprising (in 1989) representatives of all library and library technician schools in Victoria (National Section based in Victoria in 1989); the State Library; CSIRO; special, academic and public libraries; and the Ministry for the Arts plus corresponding members

in each State;

- regular committee meetings to discuss relevant issues;
- circulation of minutes;
- production of *Education for librarianship in Australia*;
- organisation of meetings, seminars, consultations and conferences.

The Board of Education has requested the Section to consider the extension of its role to include further involvement in continuing education.

Name of Section

The Board of Education has also requested the section to consider a change of name to better reflect its current and future role.

Comment

A change of name, for example to Professional Development Section, would reflect current activities and bring initial and continuing education closer together. An extension of the role of the Section to cover continuing education may enable greater cohesion between initial and continuing education and the possible coordination of activities. Arguments against this change are that *Education for librarianship* covers all areas, and members of the committee are already heavily committed and may find it difficult to coordinate further programs.

The Section would appreciate your views on this matter. Please contact: Pam Naylor, Secretary, Ed Lib, c/- Library and Information Studies Department, Box Hill College of TAFE, PO Bag 14, Box Hill, Victoria 3128; telephone (03) 895 1412; facsimile (03) 890 0328.

Faye Nicholson
President



The National Library of Australia

has released a revised edition of the Disability information online: a computer searchable database from the National Library's Computer Search Service. The publication is free and copies can be requested from The Chief Librarian, General Reference and Information Services, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT, phone (062) 621 607.



TAFE NATIONAL SECTION

2ND BIENNIAL (3-DAY) CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 1989

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE

Education, Economics and Tafe Libraries

Focusing on current issues in education and the economy as it affects TAFE and Learning Resource Centres, this is a Conference not to be missed.

A fine program of speakers — politicians, bureaucrats, educationists and librarians — will present a stimulating range of issues and the facilitators are aiming for solid, practical outcomes.

Fee: Registration	\$140
ALIA members	\$110
Students	\$50

Contact: Antonia George, Broadmeadows College of TAFE. Phone: (03) 301 0423. Patricia Stewart, Northern Metropolitan College of TAFE. Phone: (03) 479 3345.